

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US OFFER TO HOST 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) USUN 4236; (B) STATE 251517

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1. AS FURTHER FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY'S OFFER TO HOST 1979

UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REQUEST MISSION
TRANSMIT FOLLOWING OFFICIAL NOTE TO UN PERMANENT MISSIONS.

2. QUOTE. THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE PERMANENT MISSIONS OF STATE MEMBERS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND WISHES TO BRING TO THEIR ATTENTION THE UNITED STATES OFFER TO HOST THE 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

THE OFFER TO HOST THE CONFERENCE, MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN HIS ADDRESS BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 30, DERIVES NATURALLY FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DEEP INTEREST IN THE PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT AND FROM OUR AWARENESS THAT OUR COUNTRY CAN CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE.

IN THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THIS CONFERENCE MUST EMERGE FROM A COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING AND THE DEVELOPED NATIONS. THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS A PROCESS THAT ENTAILS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BOTH THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TO THE DEVELOPING NATIONS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY BASED ON THE COUNTRIES' ASSESSMENT OF THEIR OWN NEEDS AND CAPABILITIES.

AS ONE OF THE ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES IS FULLY AWARE THAT ISSUES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PLAY AN INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE RELATIONS AMONG NATIONS. AS INDICATED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT FORWARD THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES, WHICH WE WILL SUPPORT WITH FUNDS AND TALENT:

"-- TO TRAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN IDENTIFY, SELECT AND MANAGE THE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD;

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-- TO BUILD BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO CREATE INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS ADAPT FOREIGN DESIGNS AND INVENTIONS; AND

-- TO SPUR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MAKE THE MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS."

THE ABOVE CONCEPTS WILL GUIDE THE UNITED STATES' PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATORY PERIOD OF THE CONFERENCE AND IN THE CONFERENCE ITSELF, AS THEY HAVE GUIDED THE PARTICIPATION OF U.S. DELEGATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD) AND TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, WHERE THE OBJECTIVES UNDERLYING THE CONFERENCE WERE DISCUSSED AND ELABORATED. THESE CONCEPTS WOULD ALSO GUIDE OUR PREPARATIONS TO HOST THE CONFERENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT HOLDING THE CONFERENCE IN THE UNITED STATES OFFERS SIGNIFICANT PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES, PARTICULARLY IN BRINGING ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH HAVE ACCUMULATED AN INVALUABLE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN DEALING OVER THE YEARS WITH PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT, BOTH WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD.

AS FAR AS THE SPECIFIC SITE FOR THE CONFERENCE IS CONCERNED, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT WASHINGTON, D.C. WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT SETTING FOR THE CONFERENCE. IT OFFERS A CENTRAL LOCATION, PROXIMITY TO UN HEADQUARTERS, AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE AND HOTEL FACILITIES, IN ADDITION TO MANY SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL PLACES OF INTEREST. THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE SITE IN THE UNITED STATES. PARTICIPANTS MIGHT ALSO WISH DURING THEIR STAY IN THE UNITED STATES TO VISIT SOME OF THE VERY NUMEROUS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH SHARE THEIR INTERESTS.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
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UNITED STATES WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE OFFER TO HOST THE 1979 UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. END QUOTE.

3. REQUEST MISSION NOT RPT NOT CIRCULATE NOTE TO PERMANENT MISSIONS PRIOR OCTOBER 18. THIS WILL PERMIT EMBASSIES MEXICO CITY, MANILA AND VIENNA OPPORTUNITY INFORM RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTRIES FIRST IN VIEW SIMILAR OFFERS MADE BY THOSE GOVERNMENTS.

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